

November 11, 1976

Dr. Arie J. Haagen-Smit  
416 S Berkeley Avenue  
Pasadena, California 91107

Dear Dr. Haagen-Smit,

This is a small follow-up on a note I sent you a couple of days ago on my search for biographical material on Ed Tatum.

I wonder if I might now focus on a couple of specific questions for which you might be a unique source of information.

I notice, according to the biographical dictionaries, that you left Utrecht at approximately the same time that Ed came there on his postdoctoral fellowship to work with K<sub>2</sub>gl. Did you meet Ed at that time or did you cross on your respective journeys? Regardless, do you happen to know how Ed came to choose Utrecht as the place to do his research; and in particular what he worked on while he was there? I have not been able to identify, so far, any publication reflecting that year's work.

Ed also commented that he met Nils Fries at that time - but this is just a very brief remark in his Nobel Prize Lecture, and I wonder if you have any more insight into that.

Then I am trying to understand the informational network by which Ed would have come to Beadle's attention and so to be recruited to come to Stanford.  
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My final question may be answered by some of the contingencies of the previous ones. However, I wonder if I could ask you how you came to join with Ed on the work on the bacterial v<sup>+</sup> factor. I understand from between the lines of the 1941 paper and from numerous other comments that Butenandt's scoop was quite startling to Ed and undoubtedly did a great deal to highlight the way in which pathway analysis could leap-frog over very laborious work of isolation and identification. Do you have any recollections of the details of that impact - or most to be hoped for of all any correspondence covering that interval?

If you would prefer to discuss these matters face to face (although I would be most grateful for a written record), I would be happy to try to arrange a visit with you in Pasadena, which may be quite convenient as I come down to JPL from time to time on Viking business.

Perhaps enough time has now elapsed that it is not indiscrete for me to mention that I tried, some years ago, quite vigorously to interest the Nobel Committees in recognizing your pioneering work on the composition of smog. However, I guess that was both too important and too startling an intellectual

breakthrough to be recognized ~~amidst~~ the important but rather routine advances that are the main stuff of scientific advance. And I suppose - like environmental problems generally - this issue suffered from falling between the stools of medicine on the one hand and pure chemistry on the other. Knowing, however, the depths of respect and appreciation that your ~~work~~ has inspired at so many levels negates my own disappointment (and I trust yours at all if you have ever given it any thought) that it has not yet achieved this particular form of recognition.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics

JL/rr